

On the Affect of Organization: Collective Housing in Los Angeles

The home, as both metaphysical concept and spatial construct, is continuously renegotiated to reflect the lives and identities of residents and the collective values of contemporary society. During the postwar period in the United States, two opposing formulations of the home emerged: the first was an amalgam of pastoral memory and modern infrastructure embodied in the detached, single-family home and exemplified by Levittown (1951); the second was a utopian attempt to house the modern worker and the urban poor in monumental blocks and slabs, made infamous by Yamasaki's Pruitt-Igoe (1954). Both projects began with powerful ideas and noble intentions, only later to become symbols of alienation, environmental degradation, gender bias, and racial segregation. Nonetheless, Levittown is often understood as a progenitor of the American Suburb and by extension, the American Dream. Conversely, Pruitt-Igoe stigmatized public housing, stifling the development of high-density, affordable housing for decades afterward in the US. Today, we live with the baggage of the modern house and housing even as issues of social equity and environmental sustainability inch towards crisis. Simply put, the American Home is in drastic need of re-making.

This semester, we will explore the disciplinary agency of architecture through organization and its accompanying affect. Two simple hypotheses will guide our work: First, the configuration of space and material has discernible impacts on our behavior, rituals, and mood. We will refer to these impacts as affect. How can architecture inform actions, social patterns, and moods? Second, economy, density, and environmental resilience will increasingly drive urban housing typologies towards compactness with shared spatial resources and amenities. How can housing typologies be radically reconfigured around notions of what is private and what can be shared?

We will begin by examining the cultural and technical components of the domestic interior. Using Emilio Ambasz's 1972 exhibition *Italy: The New Domestic Landscape* as a model for radical thinking on the subject, we will design objects that contain and embody the technical infrastructure necessary for contemporary urban life. In doing so, we will explore issues of scale, privacy, building systems and the politics of domestic space.

Next, we will document the spatial relationships between and organizational strategies for the unit, the building, and the city through an analysis of select housing projects from Los Angeles and across the world. Circulation, open space, unit layouts, and typological variants will be studied and will serve as a basis for critique, ideas, and transformation moving forward.

Finally, we will design a collective housing project for a specific site in Los Angeles. Through two operational frameworks, aggregation and typology transformation, we will develop initial concepts informed by an organizational thesis and anticipated affect. Students will be introduced to and develop a basic understanding of Site Analysis, Programming, Building Codes and Environmental Performance not merely to design within the legal and institutional frameworks that govern construction, but rather to seek out their generative potential.

Specific criteria and learning objectives will be included in each project brief.

Instructional Framework

Readings, lectures, field trips, and workshops will be assigned or held throughout the semester to provide insight into the topics addressed by the studio. These are fundamental to the learning objectives of the studio and all students are required to attend and participate. Screens of any kind - phones, tablets, or laptops - are expressly prohibited during all lectures and presentations. Notes are to be taken with a pen or pencil in your sketchbooks. Please refer to the course schedule included with this document for further information.

Teaching Team

James Diewald (Coordinator):	diewald@usc.edu
Valery Augustin:	valery@dnaoffice.net
Mary Casper:	mary@casperbaklik.org
Andy Ku:	andyku@usc.edu
Rob Ley:	ley@rob-ley.com
Olivier Touraine:	touraine@usc.edu
Warren Techentin:	warren@wtarch.com

Studio Culture

In the interest of establishing a productive and collaborative working environment, students are highly encouraged to perform coursework pertaining to the studio in the studio space. Open exchange between peers is a critical aspect of architectural education that is facilitated by your presence and participation with others in the studio space. Please note that the USC School of Architecture has specific policies pertaining to acceptable behavior in the studio as outlined in the *Studio Culture Document*.

Evaluation & Grading

Each studio instructor will monitor and evaluate the progress and performance of their students throughout the semester. A preliminary evaluation (Unsatisfactory/Satisfactory/Outstanding) will be issued for each assignment within one week after projects are reviewed. A faculty-student mid-term conference will be held with students to provide an overview of their progress and to evaluate the quality of the work. Upon completion of the semester, all third-year faculty will review the final performance and evaluation of each student together to establish final grades. This process is in place to provide that evaluation standards are consistent across each section of the studio. A minimum final grade of a C is required to continue in the studio sequence. Students performing at or below this standard will be notified in writing. Students should consult the university policies for the Incomplete (IN) grade and should be aware of the semester schedule for key withdrawal dates as established by the university. The final semester grade will be determined by the following requirements and their respective percentages:

Project 1	30%
Typology & Precedent Analysis	10%
Project 2	50%
Readings/Portfolio/Participation	10%

Portfolio

Each student is required to digitally submit a comprehensive portfolio of work at the end of the semester in PDF format. Drawings, model photographs, sketchbook drawings, and other relevant process materials must be included for each project. It is recommended that students regularly document and archive their work throughout the semester to facilitate the production of this portfolio. Further details, including a template and submission instructions will be provided.

Attendance

The studio will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:00 pm to 5:50 pm in Harris 205. Other locations will be used throughout the semester for pinups, lectures, field trips and workshops as stipulated by the course schedule or your instructor. Students are required to be present and prepared for class. Work that does not reflect adequate progress or completion may not be discussed during desk crits, pinups or reviews at the discretion of your instructor. The following constitute the School of Architecture's attendance policy:

With prior written notification to the faculty, a student may miss the equivalent of one week of class sessions (three classes if the course meets three times per week, etc) without directly affecting the student's grade and ability to complete the course. If additional absences are required for any reason, the situation should be discussed and evaluated with the faculty member and appropriate Chair on a case-by-case basis. For each absence over the allowed number, the student's letter grade may be lowered up to one full letter grade.

Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes is considered tardy, and any student absent (in any form including sleep, technological distraction, or by leaving mid-class for more than 1/3 of the class time shall be considered fully absent. If arriving late, a student must be respectful of a class in session and do everything possible to minimize the disruption caused by a late arrival. It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.

A midterm or final review is to be treated the same as a final exam as outlined by university policy. The days allocated for project reviews in the syllabus are considered examination periods. If a student is absent or tardy on any review day and misses their opportunity to present, this is equivalent to missing an exam.

NAAB Criteria

The USC School of Architecture's five-year BARCH degree and the two-year M.ARCH degree are accredited professional architectural degree programs. All students can access and review the *NAAB Conditions of Accreditation* (including the Student Performance Criteria) on the NAAB Website, http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2004_Conditions.aspx.

The following NAAB Student Performance Criteria apply to the studio:

A.2 Design Thinking Skills: Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards. (*Organizational Thesis, P2*)

A.4 Architectural Design Skills: Ability to effectively use basic formal, organizational and environmental principles and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design. (*Project Design and Diagramming, P2*)

A.5 Ordering Systems: Ability to apply the fundamentals of both natural and formal ordering systems and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design. (*Project Design and Diagramming, P2*)

A.6 Use of Precedents: Ability to examine and comprehend the fundamental principles present in relevant precedents and to make informed choices about the incorporation of such principles into architecture and urban design projects. (*Typology and Precedent Analysis*)

B.1 Pre-Design: Ability to prepare a comprehensive program for an architectural project that includes an assessment of client and user needs; an inventory of spaces and their requirements; an analysis of site conditions (including existing buildings); a review of the relevant building codes and standards, including relevant sustainability requirements, and an assessment of their implications for the project; and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria. (*P2 Programming and analysis*)

B.2 Site Design: Ability to respond to site characteristics, including urban context and developmental patterning, historical fabric, soil, topography, ecology, climate, and building orientation, in the development of a project design. (*P2 Site Analysis*)

B.9 Building Service Systems: Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of building service systems, including lighting, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, communication, vertical transportation, security, and fire protection systems. (*P1 Systems Concepts, P2 Systems Integration*)

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct: <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC

Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Week 1: Introductions

Mon.	8.26	Studio Introduction, Project 1 Launch
Wed.	8.28	Desk Crits
Fri.	8.30	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 2: Building Systems

Mon.	9.2	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>
Wed.	9.4	Section Pinups
Fri.	9.6	Desk Crits (Last Day to Add or Drop without a "W" and with a 100% Refund)

Week 3: Accessibility

Mon.	9.9	Desk Crits
Wed.	9.11	Section Pinups
Fri.	9.13	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 4: Project 1 Review

Mon.	9.16	Desk Crits
Wed.	9.18	P1 Review
Fri.	9.20	Typology and Precedent Launch: Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 5: Typology and Precedent Analysis

Mon.	9.23	Desk Crits
Wed.	9.25	Section Pinups
Fri.	9.27	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 6: Exhibition: Housing Types and Precedents

Mon.	9.30	Desk Crits
Wed.	10.2	Exhibition: Housing Types and Precedents (Departmental Midterm)
Fri.	10.4	Project 2 Launch: Harris 101: 1:00-2:00pm Site Visit

Week 7: Site Analysis

Mon.	10.7	Section Pinups
Wed.	10.9	Desk Crits
Fri.	10.11	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 8: Programming

Mon.	10.14	Desk Crits
Wed.	10.16	Section Pinups
Fri.	10.18	<i>Fall Recess</i>

Week 9: Building Code & Life Safety

Mon.	10.21	Desk Crits
Wed.	10.23	Desk Crits
Fri.	10.25	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Note: Schedule is subject to revision

Course Schedule, Continued

Week 10: Project Midterm

Mon.	10.28	Desk Crits
Wed.	10.30	Desk Crits
Fri.	11.01	Project Midterm Review

Week 11: Project Refinement

Mon.	11.4	Desk Crits, Global Studies Info Session 5:00pm
Wed.	11.6	Desk Crits
Fri.	11.8	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm (last day to drop with mark of W)

Week 12: Enclosure and Apertures

Mon.	11.11	Desk Crits
Wed.	11.13	Desk Crits
Fri.	11.15	Section Pinups

Week 13: Sustainability and Environment

Mon.	11.18	Desk Crits
Wed.	11.20	Desk Crits
Fri.	11.22	Lecture, TBD Harris 101: 2:00-3:00pm

Week 14: Project Pinup/Thanksgiving Holiday

Mon.	11.25	Section Pinups
Wed.	11.27	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Fri.	11.29	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>

Week 15: Project Development

Mon.	12.2	Desk Crits
Wed.	12.4	Desk Crits
Fri.	12.6	Desk Crits (Last day of Classes)

Week 16: Submission and Final Review

Mon.	12.9	Drawing and Model Submission
Wed.	12.11	Final Review
Fri.	12.13	Final Review

Week 17: Portfolio Submission

Mon.	12.16	Portfolio Submission
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Note: Schedule is subject to revision